The Middle Bronze Age Palace(s) of Kamid el-Loz:

Structure(s), Findings and Urban Integration – A Reappraisal of the Freiburg Excavations





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Chair: Helen Dixon



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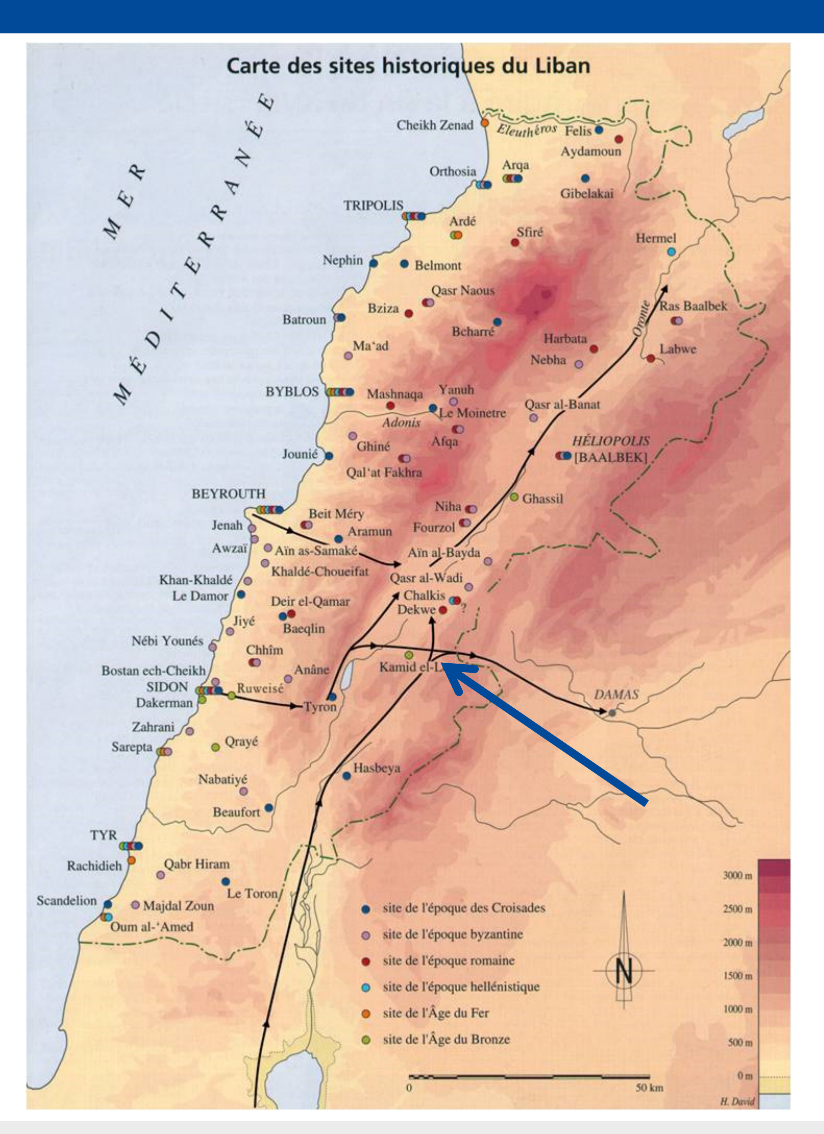


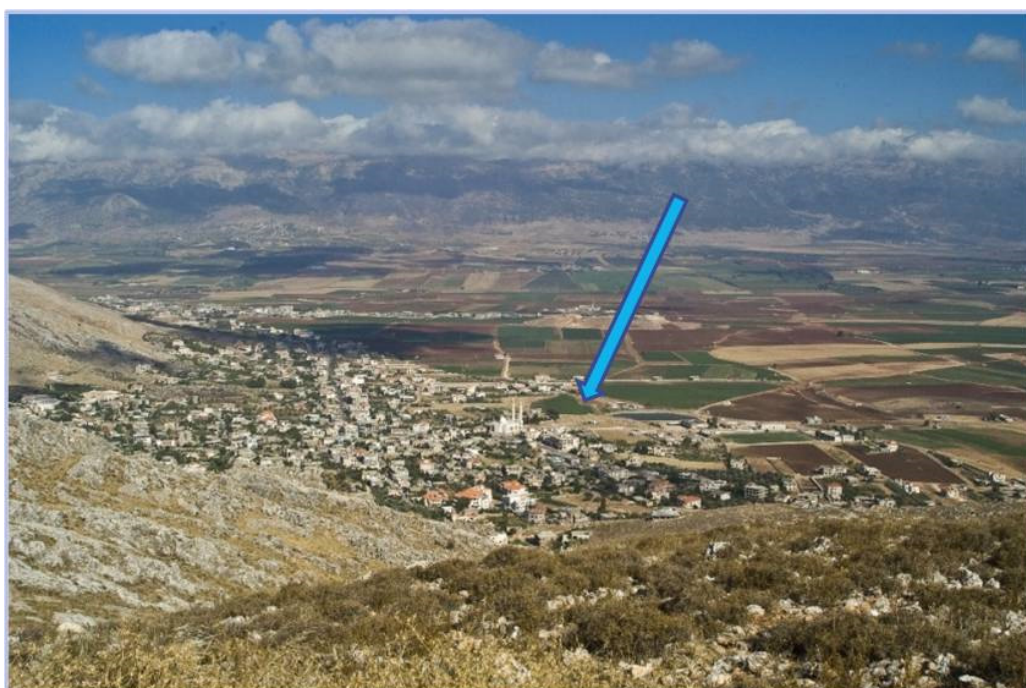
Photo: Ch. Krug

The Geographical Situation



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cf. Liban – l'Autre rive, 65

Photo: Ch. Krug

The Excavations at Kamid el-Loz: A Brief History

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Kamid el-Loz 1968

Kamid el-Loz 2011

Cf. Hachmann 1983, Abb. 10

cf. Apple maps

Chronology – Chronologies



Mainly N-Lev.	Mainly S-Levant		Levant and Syria	Arqa/	Ghassil/	Baalbek	Hatti and Mittan(n)i low chronology	Very low mesopotamien + egyptian chr. (Gasche et al. 1998, Bietak 2002, Bietak, Höflmayer 2008)	High Aegean Chronology
				Lebanon					
Ilan 1995	**Albright 1933 (Cohen 2002)**	**NEAEHL**	**Burke 2008 = 2014**	**Thalmann 2006**	**Doumet-Serhal 1996**	**Genz 2008**	**Selection of rulers**		
MB I 2000-1800	MB IIA 1940/ 1900-1700	MB IIA/ MBI 2000-1750	MB IIA 1900-1700 =MB I	BM I	MBA I = Niv. XI	MB I			
MB II 1800-1650		MB IIB/ MB II: 1750-1650		BM II 1750-1550 /1500	MBA IIB = Niv. X	MB II			
	MB IIB 1700-1600		MB IIB 1700-1600 = MB II						
MB III 1650-1500		MB IIC/ MB III 1650-1550							Eruption Thera: Ca. 1645-1625 (Manning e.g. 1999) 1628-1630 (Friedrich et al. 2006)
	MB IIC 1600-1530		MB IIC = MB III 1600-1530		MB IIC = Niv. IX		Hattushili I Murshili I 1531 conquest of Babylon	Ahmose conquers Avaris 1530 Eruption Thera about 1530-1500 conquest Babylon 1499	
	LB	LB	LB		LB				

14C-dates: Samples from the Temple Vicinity

(in situ juglet), acc. to chronostratigraphy and pottery
MBII (= MB II/III = MB IIB/C)



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OxCal v4.2.2 Bronk Ramsey (2013); r:5; Atmospheric data from Reimer et al (2009);

OxA-26511 R_Date(3495,31)

68.2% probability
1880 (13.1%) 1861calBC
1854 (55.1%) 1771calBC
95.4% probability
1906 (95.4%) 1740calBC

Radiocarbon determination (BP)

3700
3600
3500
3400
3300
3200
3100

2000 1900 1800 1700 1600

Calibrated date (calBC)

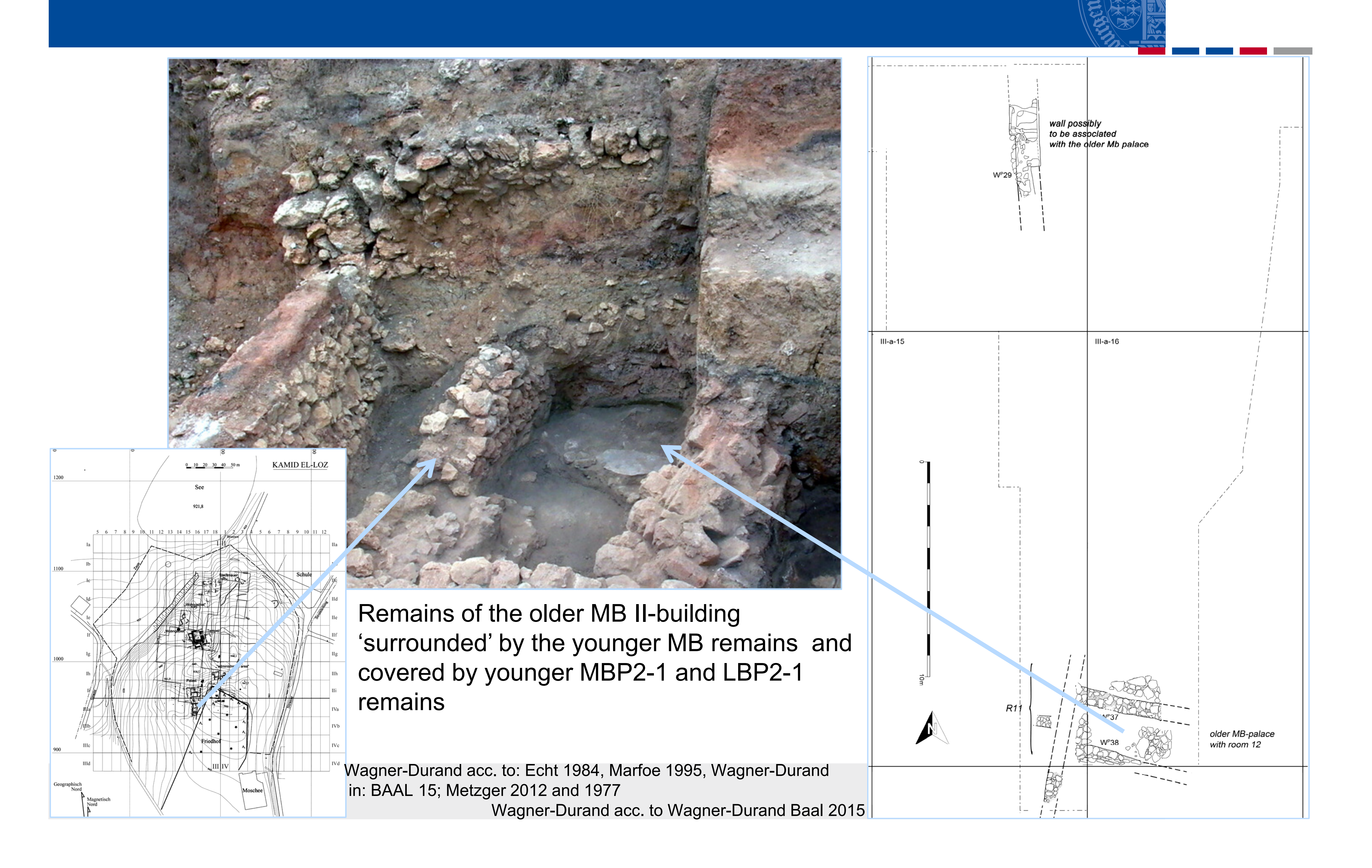
table: Felix Höflmayer

Period	Settlement	Graves
LPNB (Djsr) Chalcolithic	Traces (Saarbrucken excav, dating acc. Marfoe 1995; acc. to Hachmann no settlement traces earlier than chalcolithic (Weippert 1988, Anm. 5)	No graves found yet
EB IV/MBI	Traces; oven/fire place (Freiburg, Saarbr.)	No graves found yet
MB I	Several (at least two) building layers known (Saarbr.) plus structures from “Schatzhaus/admin. area” (Freiburg)	No graves found yet
MB II (+III)	Urbanization (?) trend: The MB II settlement (northern slope) develops during a phase of urbanization witnessed by a fortification wall (temple-palace yet unknown)	Accompanied by two house graves, missing of the burials *en gros*
	De-urbanization (?): abandonment of the settlement at least at the northern slope with settlement gap	Burial ground on the northern slope, no attributed settlement known yet
	Re-(?) Urbanization: settlement, temple (T5 (destructed) and T4 (decayed?)), palace (MBP3 and MBP2), city wall and so on Destruction of the settlement	No graves known yet G^t1-3? (attribution insecure)
	Intermezzo: intermediate building 8= MBP1 on top of the palace, traces of cultic activities in the destructed/decayed (?) temple (acc. Metzger) Destruction	With one child grave inside wall G^P1 G^t1-3? (attribution insecure)
LB I	Re-urbanization: palace (P5 = LBP3+LPB2-1, P4), temple (T3) settlement areas	So called treasury (Schatzhaus), associated with the palace P4 (end LB I, beginning LB II)
LB IIA-B	Temple (T3-1) (P4-1/2) and settlement areas	No graves known yet (burial ground 3 km afar)
IA I	Extended settlement, neither temple nor palace known	No graves known yet
IA I-II	Further de-urbanization	
IA III	Pits	Cemetery
Hellenist.	Strong increase of the settlement activities: (House V: destruction towards the end of 2. cent. B.C.)	
Roman	Further increase of the settlement activities in the 1. cent. B.C. Decrease towards the end of 1. cent. A.D.	Sarcophagi
Late Antiquity/ Byzantine/ Medieval	Resettlement of the tell (dating prelim.) Buildings (cf. Marfoe 1995)	Cemetery (dating prelim., no grave goods)
Present	Parts of the tell occupied by the mosque	Cemetery (establishment predates Mosque)

The MB-LB Stratigraphy of the Palace: A Short Overview

Period	Palace	Settlement	Graves
MB I	Palace: yet unkown: single sherds	Several (at least two) building layers known (Saarbr.) plus structures from "Schatzhaus area" (Freiburg)	No graves found yet
MB II (+III)	Palace: yet unkown resp. MBP4 (correlation to the settlement absolutely preliminary)	Urbanization (?) trend: The MB II settlement develops during a phase of urbanization witnessed by a fortification (temple unknown yet)	Accompanied by two house graves, missing of the burials *en gros*
	(?)	De-urbanization (?): abandonment of the settlement at least at the northern slope with settlement gap	Burial ground on the northern slope, no attributed settlement known yet
	"palace" MBP3 (settlement correlation preliminary) destruction palace MBP2 (=P6) Destruction	Re-(?) Urbanization: settlement, (city wall?), temple T5 (destructed) ? T4 (decayed?), city wall, settlement Destruction of the settlement	No graves known yet G^{t}1-3? (attribution insecure)
	intermediate building = MBP1 on top of the palace, Destruction	Intermezzo: traces of cultic activities in the decayed temple (acc. Metzger) Destruction	With one child grave inside wall G^{P}1 G^{t}1-3? (attribution insecure)
LB I	(LBP3 = west of palace), palace P5 = LBP2(-1)), P4	Re-urbanization: temple (T3) settlement areas	So-called treasury (Schatzhaus), associated with the palace P4 (end LB I, beginning LB II)
LB IIA-B	P4-P1/2	Temple (T3-1) and settlement areas	No graves known yet (burial ground 3 km afar)

The ‘Older MB II - Palace’ = MBP3



Remains of the older MB II-building ‘surrounded’ by the younger MB remains and covered by younger MBP2-1 and LBP2-1 remains

Wagner-Durand acc. to: Echt 1984, Marfoe 1995, Wagner-Durand in: BAAL 15; Metzger 2012 and 1977

Wagner-Durand acc. to Wagner-Durand Baal 2015

The ‚Older MB II - Palace' - Details

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W^P38: the mud-bricks, heaviliy burnt, cracked and slightly slipped of the stone foundation

View into room 12/11: the crack of wall W^P37 being visible in the middle





The view to the west: the section reveals the tight destruction and building succession of the MB II sequence.

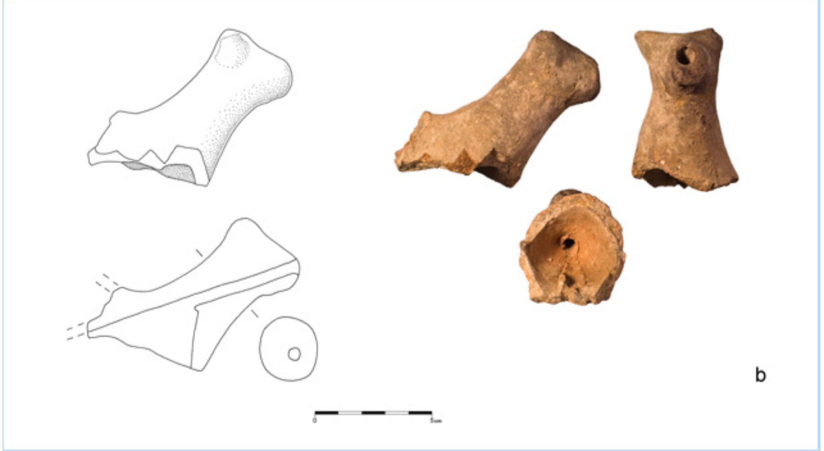
Photos: M. Heinz, J.M. Müller, E. Wagner-Durand

The ‚Older MB II Palace' / MBP3:
Pottery and Findings






Stone bellow, north of room 12



Fragment of a rython and
(L-) painted wares from room 12

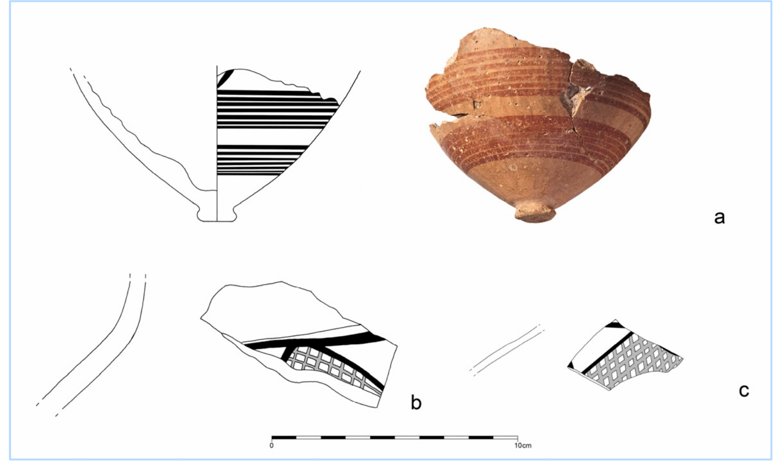


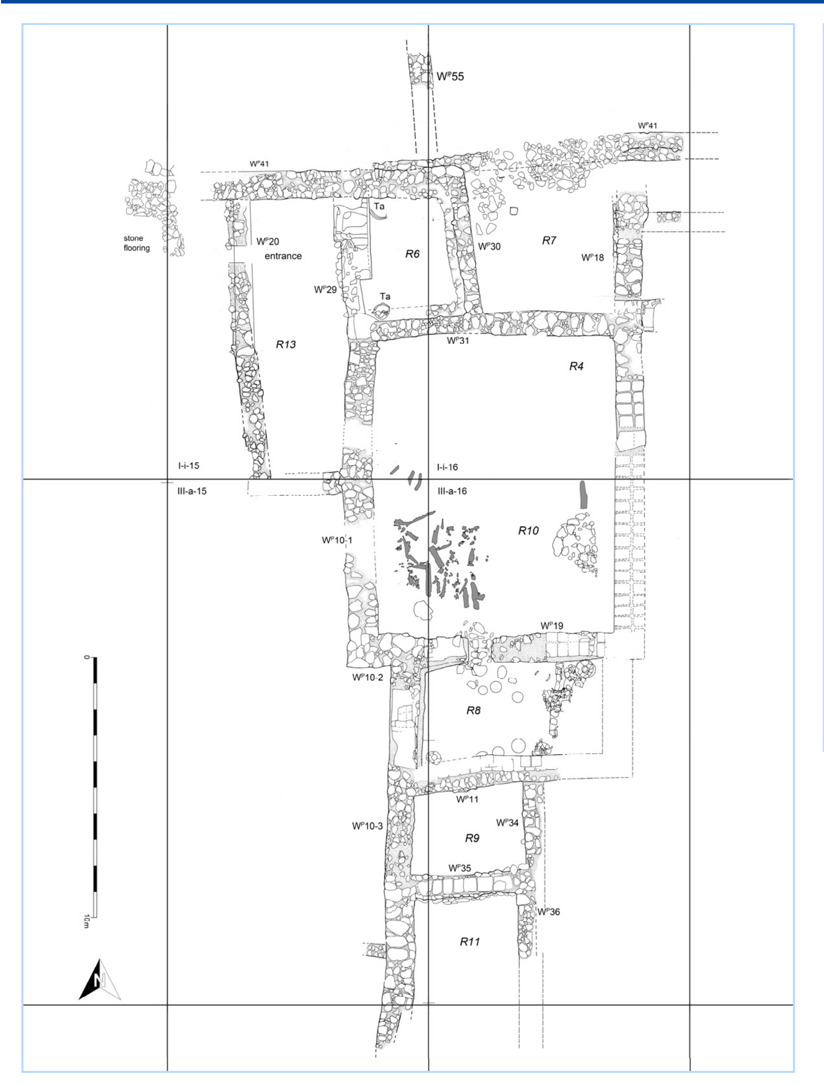
Photo: Krug

cf. Linke in BAAL 14/2010;
cf. Walther in: BAAL 14/2010

The ‘Younger MB II – Palace’





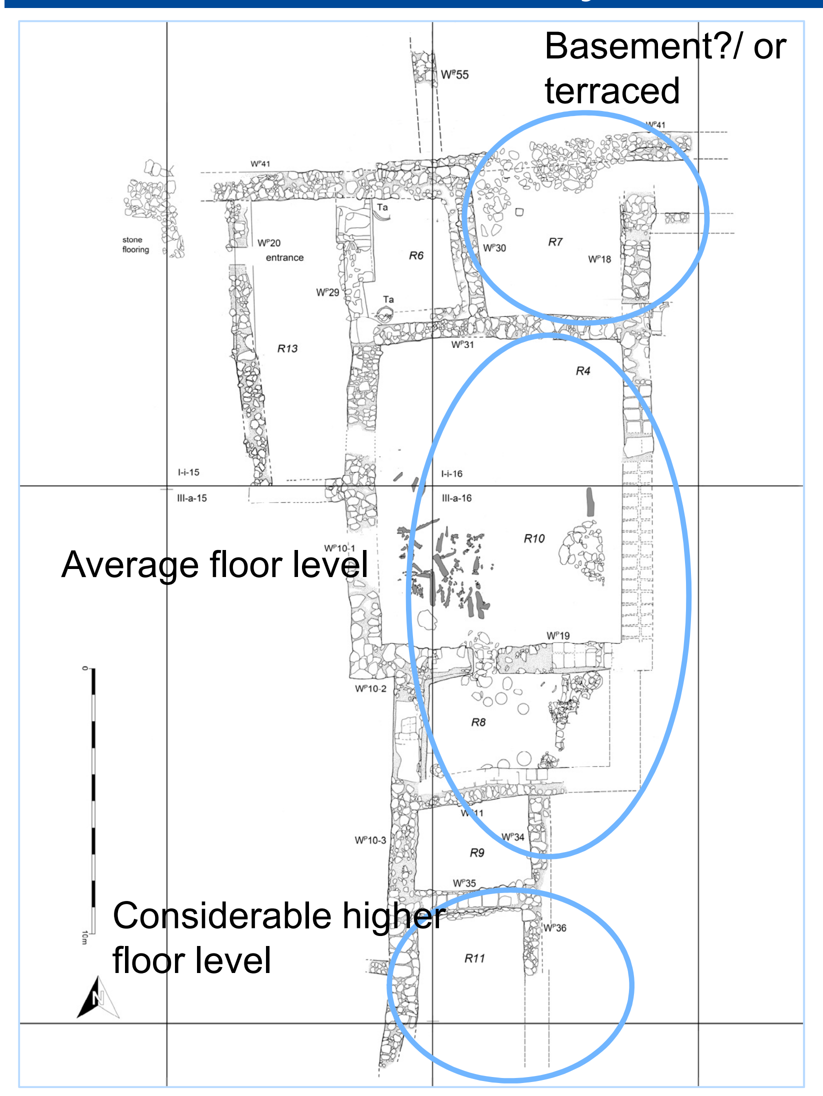




Wagner-Durand acc. to Wagner-Durand in: BAAL 15 | Photo: Ch. Krug | Wagner-Durand acc. to Wagner-Durand in: BAAL 15

The ‘Younger MB II – Palace’:
The General Layout:
A terraced, 2-storeyed, re-used building ?!

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Basement?/ or terraced

Average floor level

Considerable higher floor level



Staircase room HH of the LB I/IIA palace P4

Older Wall W^P29

Connected palace wall W^P41

Intermediate building level of Wall W^P30

LB Palace wall W^P40



Wagner-Durand acc. To Wagner-Durand in: BAAL 15

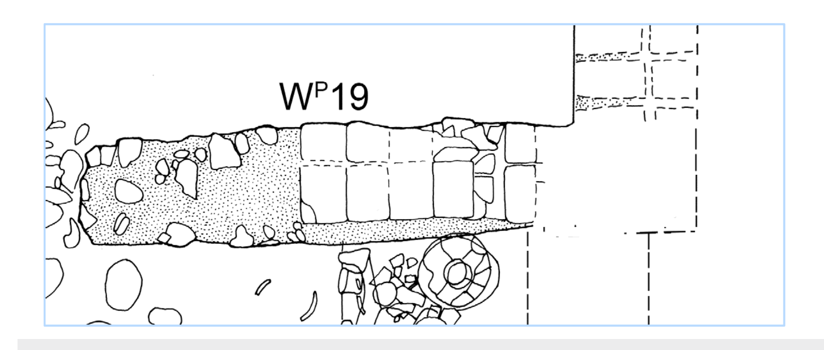
cf. Adler/Penner 2001;
Photo: Heinz

The ‘Younger MB II – Palace’
Construction – The Masonry







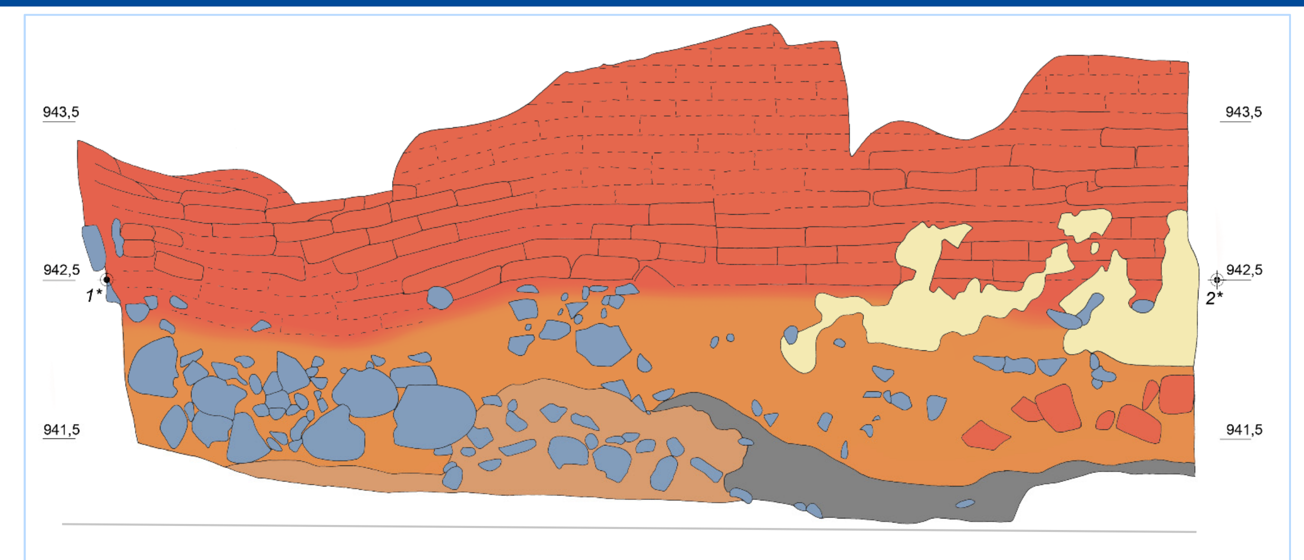


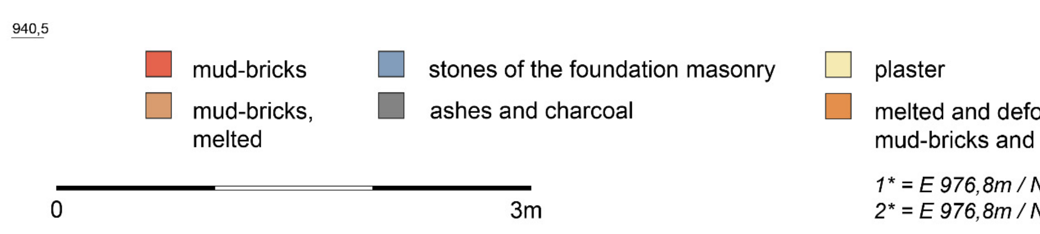
Photos: Kose and Krug; drawing Wagner-Durand/Leicht

The ‘Younger MB II – Palace’
The Plastering



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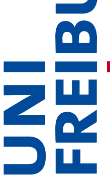




Drawing: Wagner-Durand/Leicht

Photo: Krug

The 'Younger MB II – Palace'
The Wooden Remains







Photos: Krug and Wagner-Durand

The ‘Younger MB II – Palace’
The Rooms’ Functions



Food preperation

Storaging (dishes)

Representing ?

Storaging (food and dishes, plus processing)

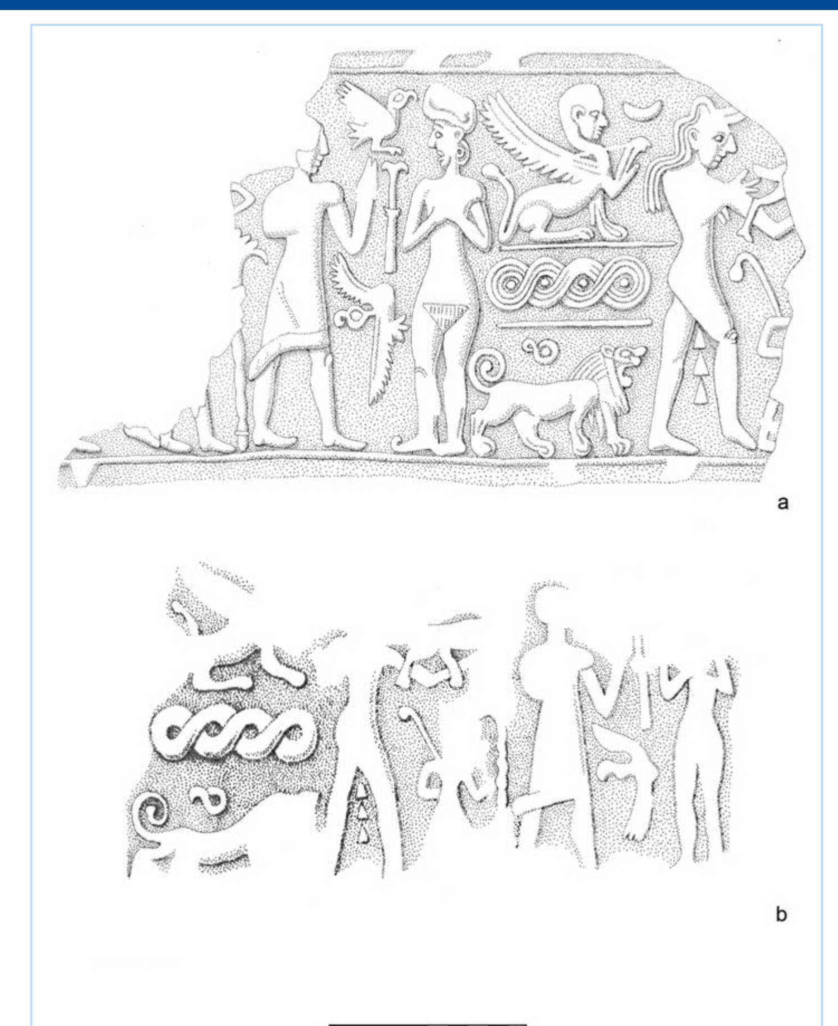
?

? (weaving)?

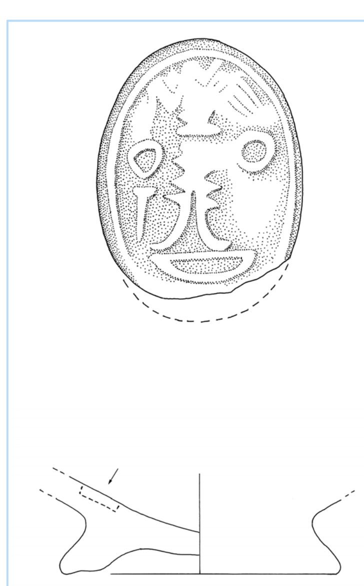
Wagner-Durand acc. Wagner-Durand in: BAAL 15

The 'Younger MB II – Palace':
Administration: seals and sealings





Impressions of one seal from the palace and the "Schatzhaus"-area



Scarab(oid) impression from the palace area



seal impression on a storage jar handle from the "Schatzhaus"-area

Linke/Heinz in: Maran/Stockhammer 2012

Linke in: BAAL15

The 'Younger MB II – Palace':
The Pottery Inventory of room 8

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'In situ':

- Southern bench: 2 pithoi, 2 moulds empty, 2 juglet, 1 jug
- Eastern bench: 8 pithoi (two rows) and 1 jug
- Western wall: 5 carinated bowls; 1 jug with a handle and 1 painted flask-like vessel
- Middle of the room: 1 cooking pot, 2 storage vessels, 1 juglet, 1 jug and 1 flat bowl

Statistics

- 28 flat, standardized and stackable bowls
- 9 deep bowls
- 8 carinated bowls
- 4 flasks and small juglets (jugs)
- 7 cooking pots,
- 1 jar, 1 jug with a handle and another juglet
- To these add those sherds which could not be attributed concerning their definite shape.



Photo: Krug

Pit:

- 1 vessel (square-shaped body), 1 juglet with a trefoil mouth, 1 jug with a handle, at least 2 carinated bowls and fragments of 1 cooking pot and 1 bowl

The ‘Younger MB II – Palace’:
Room 8 – Benches and Pottery inventory





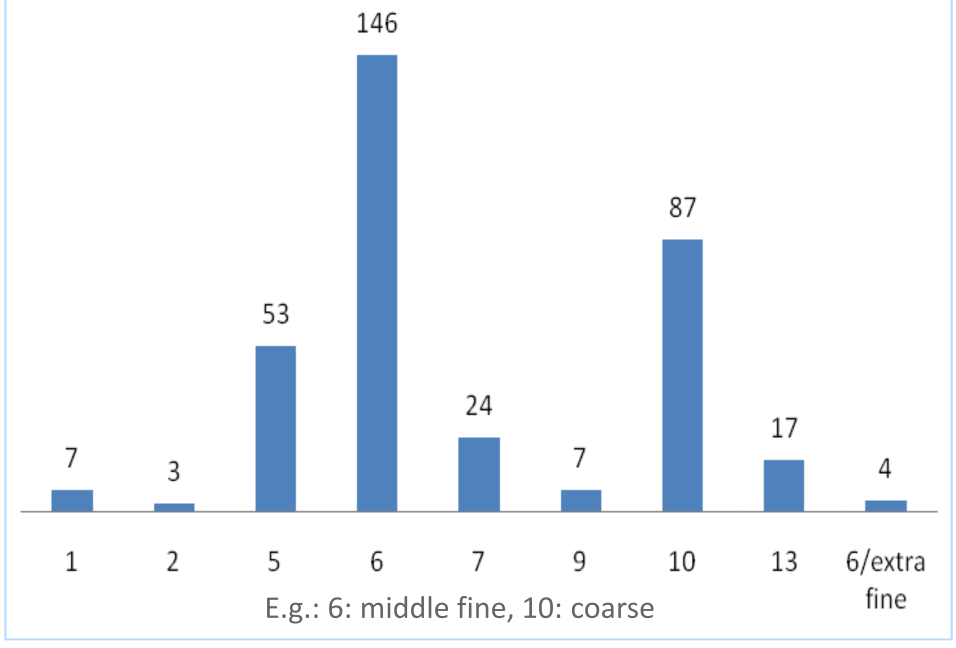




Cf. Wagner-Durand in: BAAL15, Müller/Wagner in: BAAL 14/2010 and arial photos: Krug.

The 'Younger MB II – Palace'
Wares, burnishing and Painting in Room 8









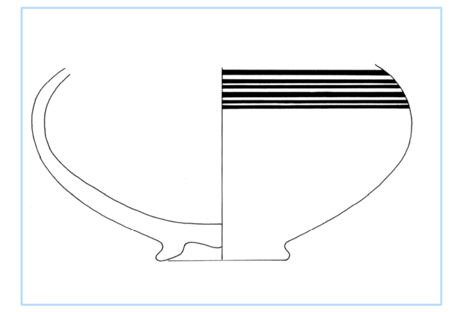
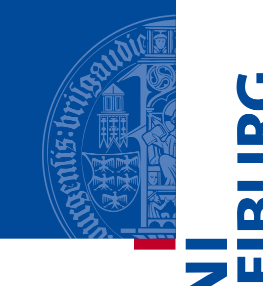




Table: Wagner-Durand; drawings: Leicht / photos: Krug

The ‘Younger MB II – Palace’
The flooring of room 7



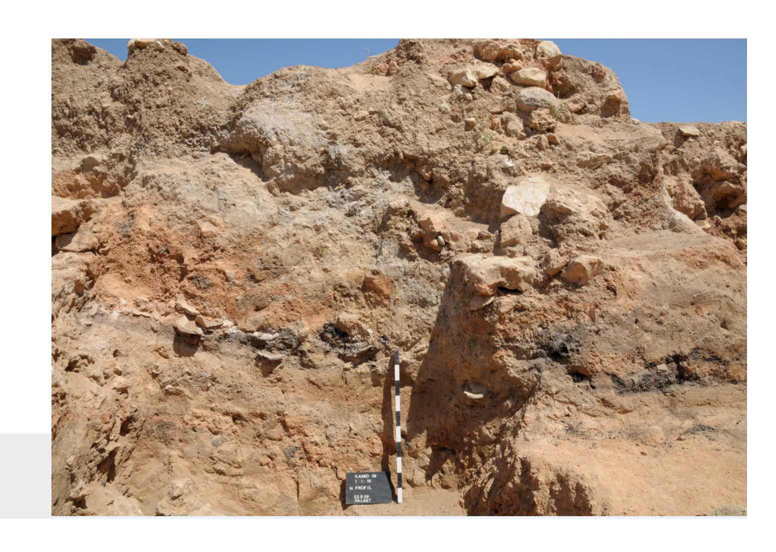
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The inventory

(*FS 63/i-i16/2009; FS16+/I-i-16/2010*)

- 5 (at least) storage vessels
- 4 juglets
- 3 small jars
- 1 jug
- 4 cooking pots
- 2 lamps
- 2 chalices
- 18 platters
- 10 bowls

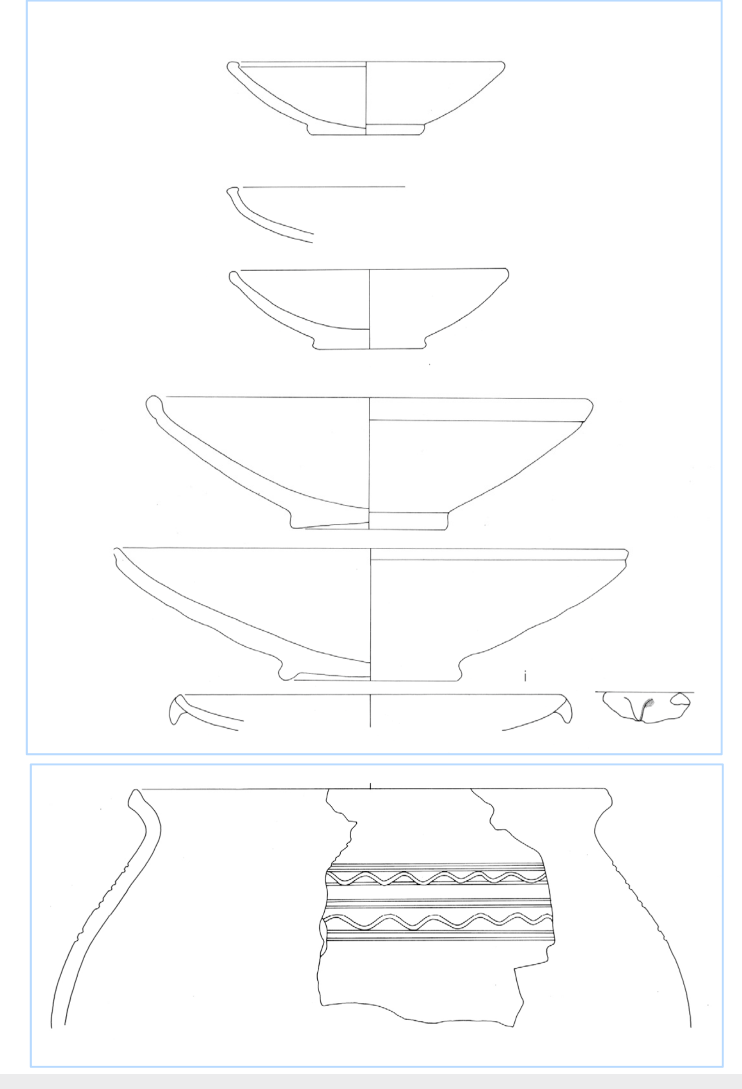


Photos: Wagner-Durand

The ‘Younger MB II – Palace’

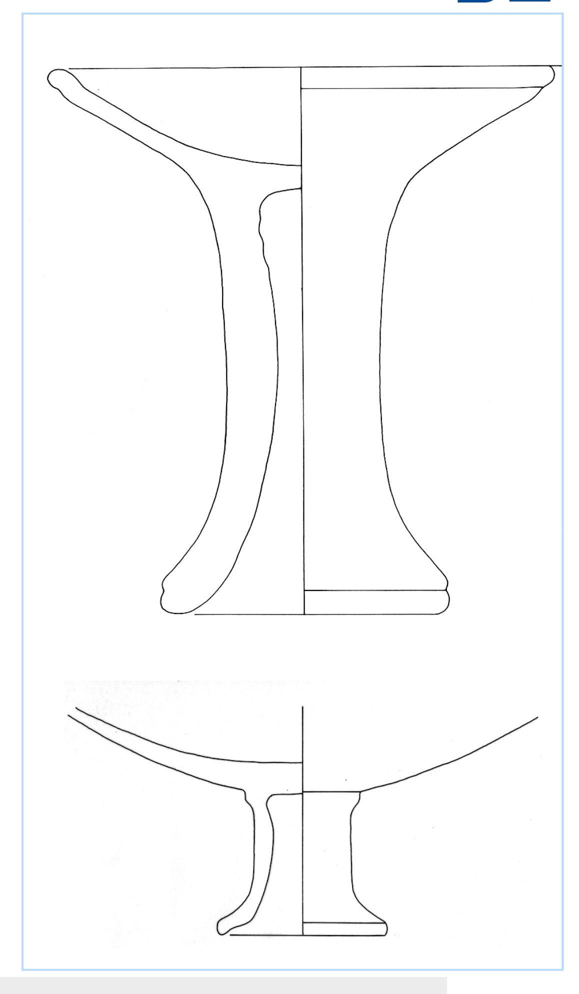
Same same but different: Incised wares, stands and co. from room 7











Catanzariti in Baal15/in press; Photos: Catanzariti / Krug

Imported wares



0 10cm

White Painted IV-VI Ware Cross Line Style juglet

The Palace area
within the MB II(/III) (= MB II B/C) – City



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city wall

settlement quarter

settlement quarter

"administrative area"

palace

949.08

KAMID EL-LOZ

City wall

Living areas
(so-called northern slope)

Settlement remains west of the temple and temple

The citadel area
(highest known area of the tell) with palace and affiliated buildings

Course of the slope

Course of the slope

Wagner-Durand acc. to: Echt 1984, Marfoe 1995, Metzger 2012 and 1977, Heinz/Wagner-Durand in: BAAL 15.

The Citadel:
A ‚retaining‘ wall in the ‚administrative area‘

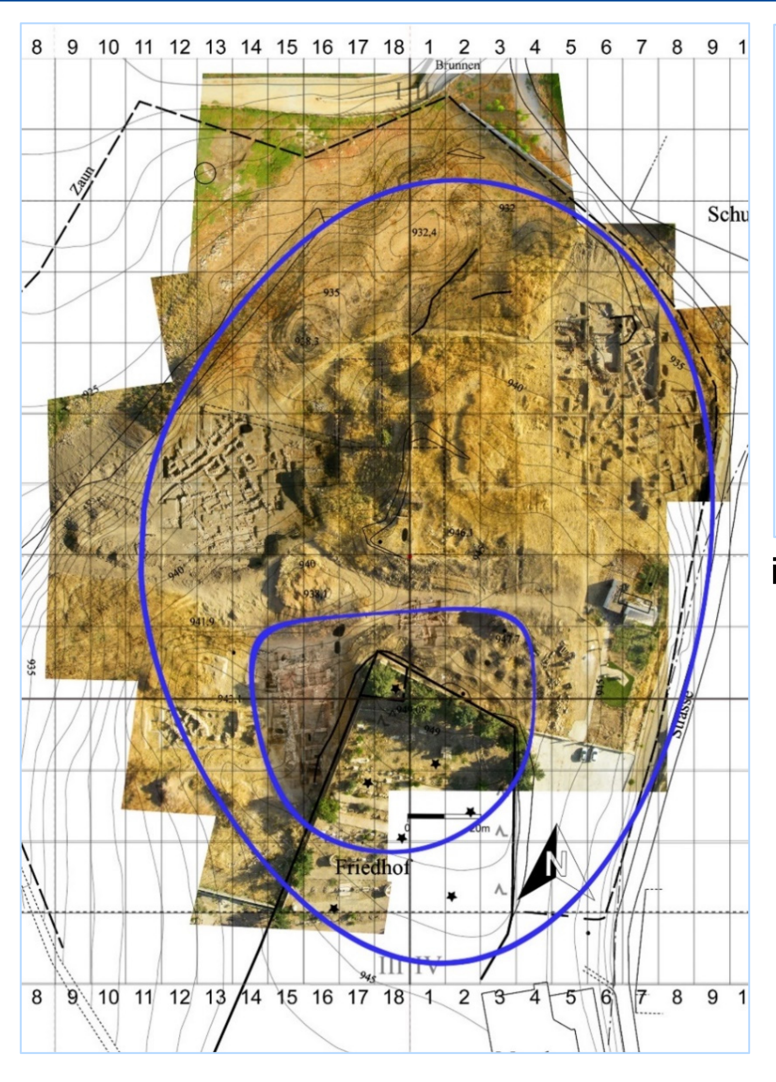


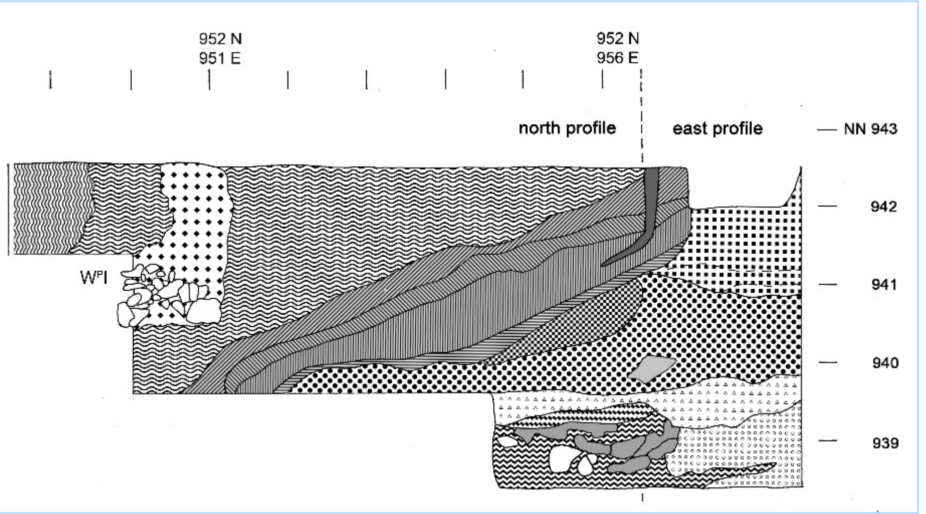
Photo: Linke/Krug

The Citadel:
the (partly artificial) slope situation









in the west of the palace (above)



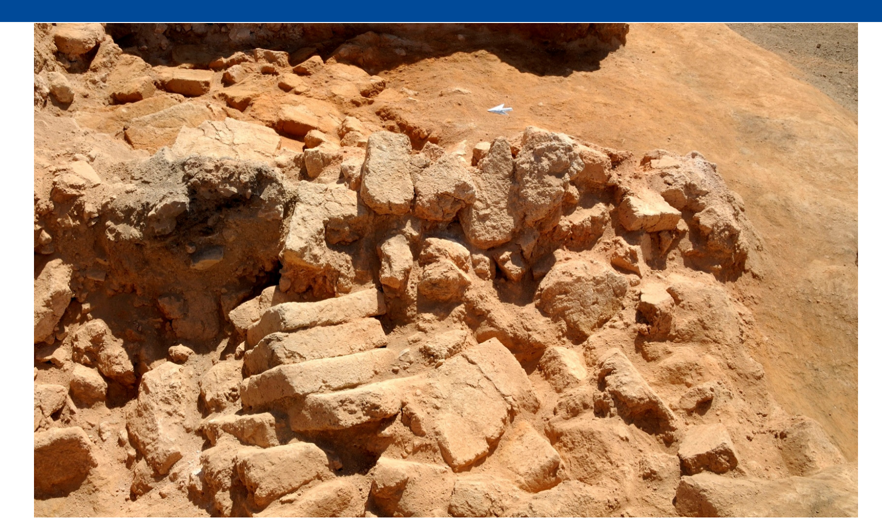
in the north of the „Schatzhaus area“ (right)

Linke/Wagner in: BAAL HS/2010

Wagner/Linke in: BAAL HS/2010; Linke in: BAAL 15

The Citadel and the Palace within:
The late MB II destruction









Burnt mud-brick of the MBA-Citadel:
palace (left) and "Schatzhaus"-area (right)

Wagner in: BAAL 14/2010

Linke in: BAAL 15.

The ‘Intermediate Building’ (=MBP1):
Between the Ages and the Palaces



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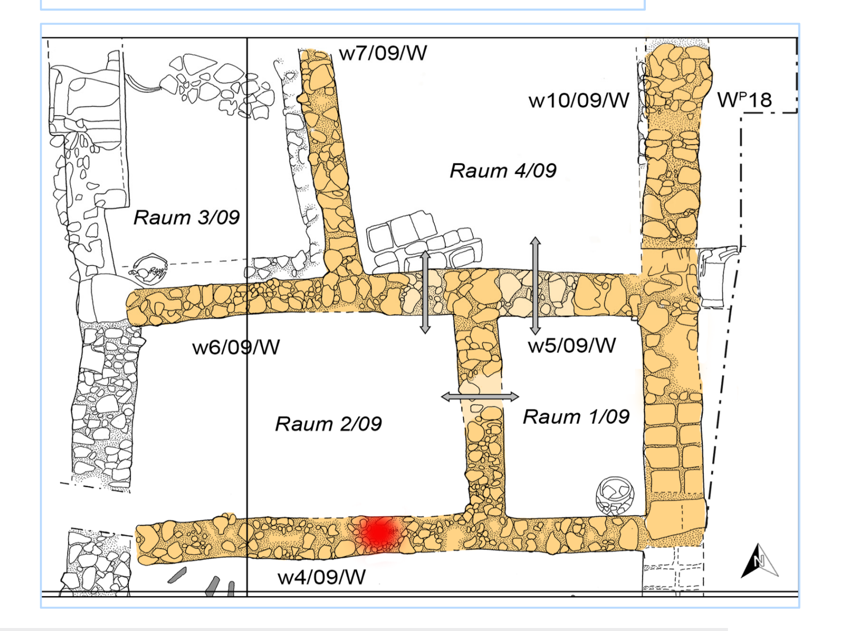
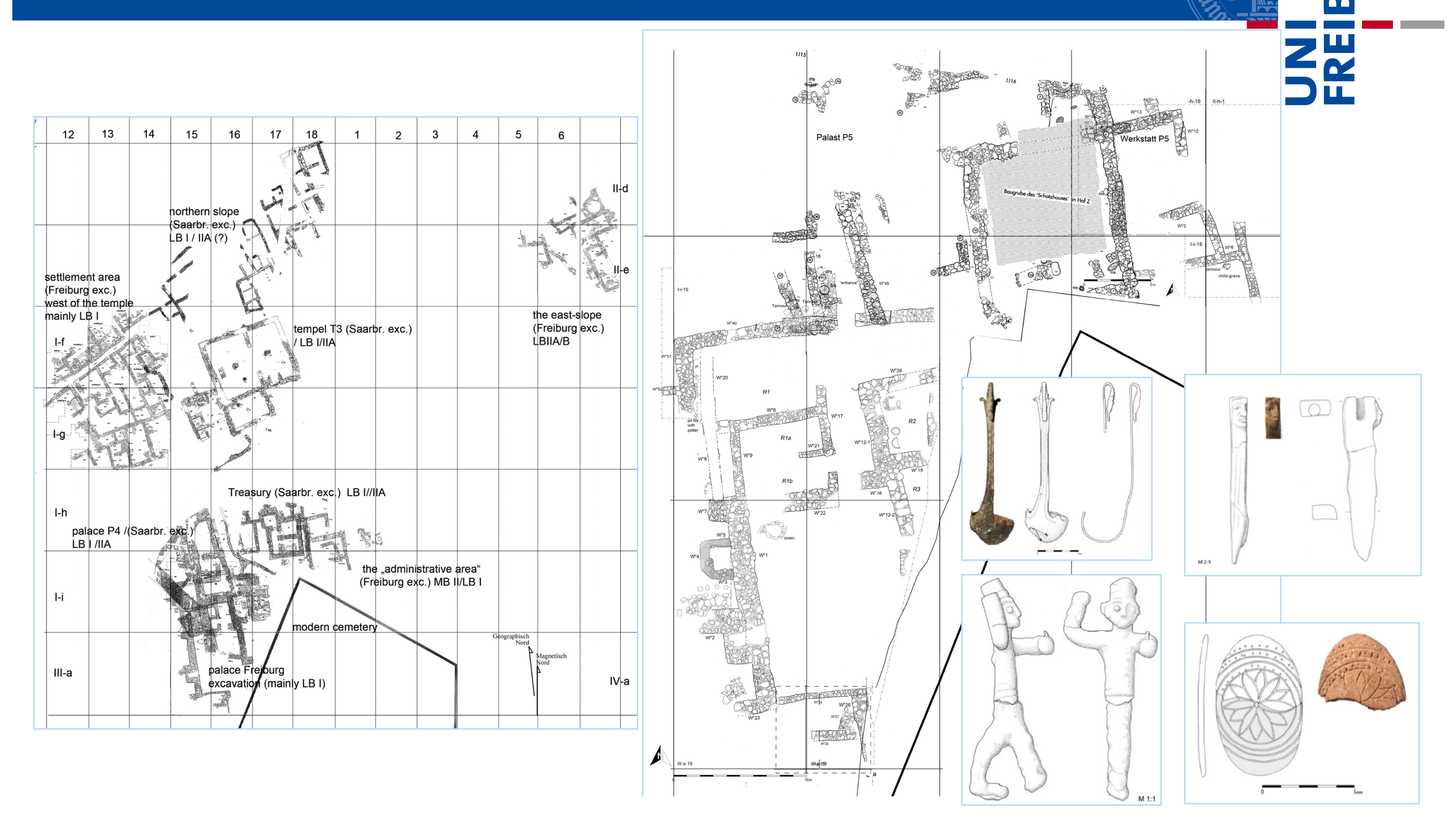


Photo Wagner-Durand
cf. Walther in: BAAL 14/2010

Photo: Krug
drawing: Wagner-Durand/Leicht

Afterwards:
The Late Bronze Age Kumidi

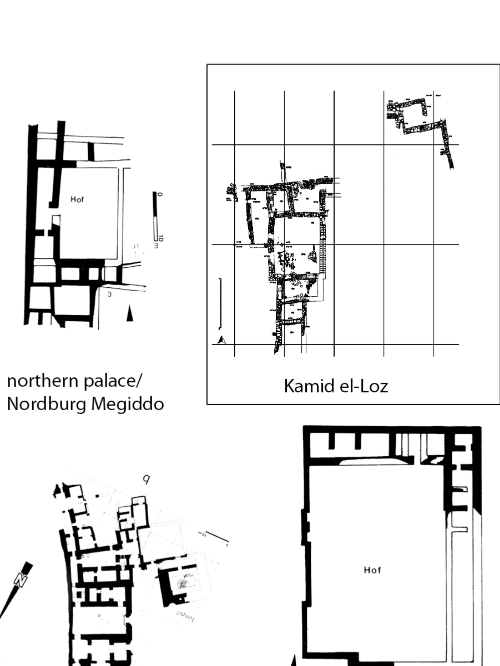


Cf. Wagner-Durand acc. to: Heinz in BAAL 14,. Echt 1984, Marfoe 1995, Metzger 1993, Linke in. BAAL 14, Heinz/Wagner-Durand in: BAAL 15

Wagner-Durand acc. to Heinz/Wagner-Durand in: BAAL 15/in press, Frisch 1985, Adler/Penner 2001, Heinz/Linke in: BAAL 15, Linke in: BAAL 14 (2010)



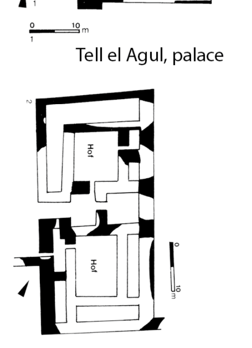
Palaces of the Levant and NW-Syria in Comparison



northern palace/
Nordburg Megiddo

Kamid el-Loz

palace Alalakh level VII



Tell el Agul, palace

Tell Balata, palace

Palast /Unterstadt Hazor

Qatna



Ebla, Nordpalast

Tell Kabri, palace

Megiddo, building 2041, level VIIB (palace)

Acc. to Weippert 1988, to RIA s.v. Qatna,
RIA s.v. Palast, Feldman 2007

Palaces in the Levant: Characteristics



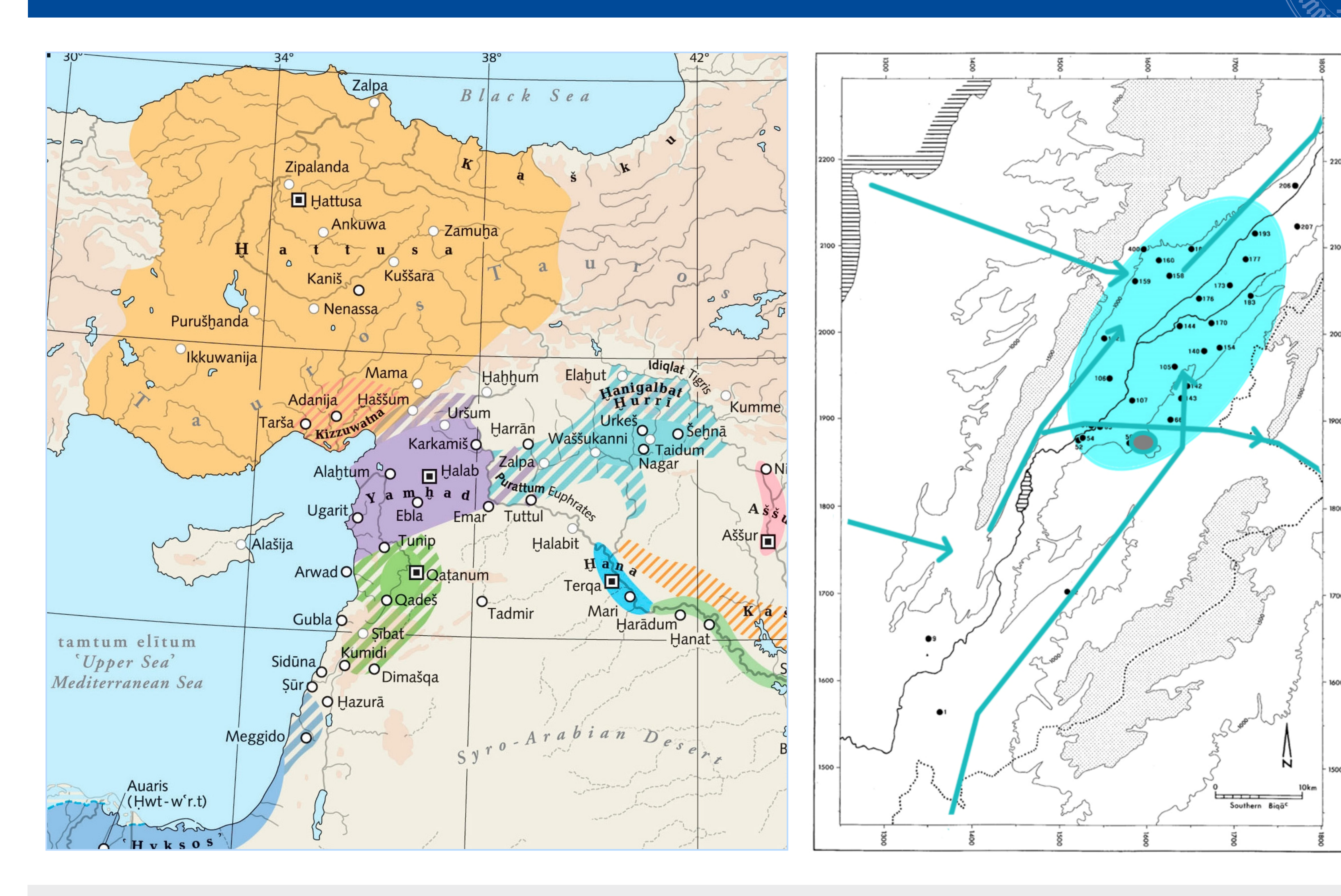
Characeristics acc. to Burke 2014	Kumidi
Elaborate masonry (Ashlar)	No ashlar, but partially carefully hewn foundation stones, nicely set mud-brick masonry
Orthostats	None
Column bases	None, but likely in hall 10
Tiled floors	None
Drainage systems	Not reached yet
Cedar beams	Yes
Plasters and painted walls	Plastered, no paint known yet
Grand central courtyards	Yes
Throne rooms	?
Funeral monuments	? (later LB I/II)
Royal statuary	None
Cuneiform tablets	None
Migdal temples	No temple at the citadel known yet
Fortified settlement	Yes

Seven-tier Settlement Hierarchy
acc. to Burke 2014 and Burke 2008



- Fortified political centers
- Secondary fortified provincial centers
- Smaller fortified towns
- Unfortified villages
- Fortresses
- Watchtowers
- Farmsteads

Kamid el-Loz in the MB II:
Its Intra- and Supraregional Setting



Cf. Novák in: Wittke 2010: map B

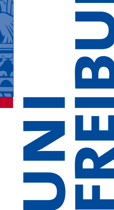
cf. Marfoe 1995, map 20

Looking forward.......



The Team during a rain break 2010

Thank you very much for your kind attention!



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